



European Stories

Intellectual Debates on Europe in National Contexts

Justine Lacroix and Kalypso Nicolaidis

Oxford University Press

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About this book

European Stories is the first book of its kind in any European language. Its authors explore the many different ways 'public intellectuals' have debated Europe - the EU and its periphery - within distinct epistemological, disciplinary, ideological and above all national traditions. The chapters focus on the post-1989 era but with a view to the long history of the 'European idea' and its variants across the continent. To what extent such ideas frame the attitude of European publics is left open. But the authors assume that they matter to the European project as a whole.

While the twelve national cases have been selected for the broad range they offer, from founding to non-EU member states, they are not exhaustive as the book is meant to encourage further research. The authors of these chapters are all themselves fully immersed in their respective public spheres although generally not strongly identified with one 'camp' or another.

The expected readership is broad and interdisciplinary, ranging from political philosophy, to political science, international relations, history, sociology and the history of ideas. Beyond academia, *European Stories* is meant for all readers interested in the intellectual debates of our time.

Reviews

"This is a brilliant book. Its highly instructive chapters on how issues of European unification have been discussed from different aspects in different countries reveal in each case the strong dependence on national contexts -and the lack of mutual concern and coordination we observe in Europe even among intellectuals." - **Jürgen Habermas**

"Europe has completed the circle of its 'historical project', gradually healing the wounds and making amends for the errors of its past: Nazism and the Second World War, dictatorships in its Southern countries, Communist control of the East. Europe's great challenge now is to piece together a new identity, to arrive at a shared idea of Europe that is still missing. The volume edited by Justine Lacroix and Kalypso Nicolaidis is an invaluable contribution to moving this process forward. I urge Europeans across the continent to read and debate it." - **Pierre Rosanvallon, Collège de France**

"The European Union is one of the most mind-boggling political phenomena of our times. All over Europe, public intellectuals have slowly been rising to the challenge of assessing its significance and arguing about its future. But most of the time in their own impenetrable national bubbles. Thanks to an impressive pan-European team, this unusual volume enables us to peep through the opaque walls that separate national debates. Whether you are looking for similarities or for differences, be prepared for many surprises" - **Philippe Van Parijs, Université Catholique de Louvain and Harvard University**

"This is a remarkable attempt to capture the full polyphony, not to say cacophony, of different national, sub-national and supra-national versions of the European story, and then to find some underlying tune. It should be essential reading for anyone interested in the intellectual and political

future of the European project." - **Timothy Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies, University of Oxford**

"The trajectory of European integration is being decided not in Brussels but in 27 diverse nation-states. Their citizens view Europe in strikingly different ways. Brilliantly combining story-telling and social science, *European Stories* offers a path-breaking analysis of these disparate national visions. Indispensable for anyone who cares about Europe's future." - **Prof. Andrew Moravcsik, Director, EU Program, Princeton University**

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Defining and understanding the "European soul" became central in all cultural and intellectual milieus; far from being mere intellectual quarrels, such debates stemmed, on the contrary, from the immediate need to banish the risk of a new war and, more fundamentally, from the urge to avoid the complete destruction of European civilization. "Europe", claimed Simone de Beauvoir in the memoirs which she published in 1963, was a myth, used by the United States as it sought to restore the power of Germany as a counterweight to that of the USSR. Over the last two decades or so, historians, drawing on works from the 1960s and beyond, have investigated the European myth and the. In This Review. European Stories: Intellectual Debates on Europe in National Contexts. By. 432 pp, Oxford University Press, USA, 2011. Purchase. Few Europeans are true believers in a federal ideal, and their national political identities are not converging. Each of the 27 national debates among intellectuals and commentators about the meaning of Europe remains insular and idiosyncratic. This creative volume brings together a pan-European team to present these diverse discussions and reflect on the differences and similarities among them. Unlike traditional federalist supporters of Europe (and their nationalist critics), the authors assembled here do not view the continent's ideological diversity as evidence of the EU's failure. European Stories takes a new look at debates about European Integration b... Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking "European Stories: Intellectual Debates on Europe in National Contexts" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving! Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover.